

Psychology of Emotion (1225)  
Spring 2011

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### **Brief description**

The science of emotion is critical to our understanding of human behavior and emerging fields such as affective computing and human-robot communication. This course introduces major approaches to emotion and addresses topics that may include perception, communication, individual differences, development, affective computing, and dynamics of facial and vocal expression. Depending upon student interests, some topics and readings may be more or less emphasized and others introduced.

### **Preparation**

Class attendance and participation are expected. If you miss class, you will miss material that may be presented only there.

### **Evaluation**

Grades are based on weekly reaction papers (15%), a quiz (10%), two exams (25%, 25%), and a project (25%). Attendance is expected. Exams are cumulative and cover material from readings and class. Makeup exams are given only for an appropriate and verifiable excuse.

The quiz and exams include multiple-choice and short answer or essay questions. They cover material from class, readings, and audio-visual materials. Not all readings can be discussed in class. If you have questions about anything in the readings or in class, please ask.

Reaction papers should approximately ½ to 1 page in length. They address three topics: 1) Summary of the readings; 2) how the readings may relate to previous readings or classes; and 3) One or more questions for discussion. Unless otherwise announced, they are due via Blackboard ([courseweb.pitt.edu](http://courseweb.pitt.edu)) Wednesdays by 2 PM.

Projects will be presented to the class. Topics and a prospectus must be approved in advance. Projects may be done with a partner. Under some circumstances, a written paper may be submitted in lieu of an oral presentation.

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ > 96.6%; A > 93.3%; A- > 90.0%	D+ > 66.6%; D > 63.3%; D- > 60.0%
B+ > 86.6%; B > 83.3%; B- > 80.0%	F < 60%
C+ > 76.6%; C > 73.3%; C- > 70.0%	

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact your instructor and Disability Resources Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term.

<i>Date*</i>		<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Jan.	6	Introduction	Text, chapter 1
Jan.	11	Emotion or cognition?	(Lazarus, Coyne, & Folkman, 1984) (Zajonc, 1984)
Jan.	13	Dimensions or categories?	(Pollak & Kistler, 2002)
Jan.	18	Evolutionary approaches	Text, chapter 2
Jan.	20	Evolutionary approaches	(Darwin, 1872/1998), selected chapters
Jan.	25	Evolutionary approaches	(Ekman, 1992), (Fridlund, 1992)
Jan.	27	Cultural approaches	Text, chapter 3
Feb.	1	Cultural approaches	(Mesquita & Leu, 2007)
Feb.	3	Functions Quiz	(Keltner, Haidt, & Shiota, 2006)
Feb.	8	Communication	Text, chapter 4
Feb.	10	Communication	(Jack, Blais, Scheepers, Schyns, & Caldara, 2009) (Cohn & Ekman, 2005)
Feb.	15	Communication Review	
Feb.	17	<a href="#">Exam</a>	
Feb.	22	Biological approaches	Text, chapter 5
Feb.	24	Biological approaches	(Davidson, Ekman, Saron, Senulis, & Friesen, 1990) (Niedenthal, 2007)
Mar.	1	Prospectus for presentation Appraisal	Text, chapters 7 and 10 pages TBA
Mar.	3	Cognitive approaches	
Mar.	8	Spring Break	
Mar.	10	Spring Break	

Mar.	15	Affective computing	(Evans, 2003) (Times, July 11, 2010)
	17	Affective computing	(Cohn, 2010) (Cohn & Sayette, 2010)
Mar.	22	TBA	TBA
Mar.	24	TBA	TBA
Mar.	29	Individual differences	Text, chapter 11
Mar.	31	Presentations	
Apr.	5	TBA	
Apr.	7	Presentations	
Apr.	12	Presentations	
Apr.	14	Presentations	
Apr.	19	TBA	
Apr.	21	Presentations	
Apr.	25	<u>Exam</u> , 12 – 1:50 pm	

Topics will be presented in the order shown. Because we may spend more or less time on a given topic, the exact dates and the readings may vary. All changes will be announced in class. The textbook is (Oatley, Keltner, & Jenkins, 2006). Other readings will be available on Blackboard/Course Web. If a reading is missing, please let me know.

### Readings

- Cohn, J. F. (2010). Advances in behavioral science using automated facial image analysis and synthesis. *IEEE Social Signal Processing Magazine*, 128(6), 128-133.
- Cohn, J. F., & Ekman, P. (2005). Measuring facial action by manual coding, facial EMG, and automatic facial image analysis. In J. A. Harrigan, R. Rosenthal & K. Scherer (Eds.), *Handbook of nonverbal behavior research methods in the affective sciences* (pp. 9-64). New York: Oxford.
- Cohn, J. F., & Sayette, M. A. (2010). Spontaneous facial expression in a small group can be automatically measured: An initial demonstration. *Behavior Research Methods*, 42(4), 1079-1086.
- Darwin, C. (1872/1998). *The expression of the emotions in man and animals (3rd edition)*. New York: Oxford University.
- Davidson, R. J., Ekman, P., Saron, C. D., Senulis, J. A., & Friesen, W. V. (1990). Approach-withdrawal and cerebral asymmetry: Emotional expression and brain physiology I. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 58(2), 330-341.
- Ekman, P. (1992). An argument for basic emotions. *Cognition and Emotion*, 6(3/4), 169-200.
- Evans, D. (2003). *Emotion: A very short introduction*. Oxford, UK: Oxford.
- Fridlund, A. J. (1992). Darwin's anti-darwinism in the Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals. In K. T. Strongman (Ed.), *International Review of Studies on Emotions* (Vol. 2, pp. 117-137). New York: Wiley.

- Jack, R. E., Blais, C., Scheepers, C., Schyns, P. G., & Caldara, R. (2009). Cultural confusions show that facial expressions are not universal. *Current Biology*, *19*, 1-6.
- Keltner, D., Haidt, J., & Shiota, L. (2006). Social functionalism and the evolution of emotions. In M. Schaller, J. A. Simpson & D. T. Kenrick (Eds.), *Handbook of evolution and social psychology* (pp. 115-142). NY: Psychology Press.
- Lazarus, R. S., Coyne, J. C., & Folkman, S. (1984). Cognition, emotion, and motivation: The doctoring of Humpty-Dumpty. In K. R. Scherer & P. Ekman (Eds.), (pp. 221-238). Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
- Mesquita, B., & Leu, J. (2007). The cultural psychology of emotion. In S. Kitayama & D. Cohen (Eds.), *The handbook of cultural psychology* (pp. 734-759). NY: Guilford.
- Niedenthal, P. M. (2007). Embodying emotion. *Science*, *316*, 1002-1005.
- Oatley, K., Keltner, D., & Jenkins, J. M. (2006). *Understanding emotions* (2nd ed.). Oxford, UK: Blackwell.
- Pollak, S. D., & Kistler, D. J. (2002). Early experience is associated with the development of categorical representations for facial expressions of emotion. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *99*(13), 9072-9076.
- Times, N. Y. (July 11, 2010). Learning to read people. *New York Times*.
- Zajonc, R. B. (1984). On primacy of affect. *American Psychologist*, *39*(2), 117-123.